

Series: The Believer's Place in a Wicked World
"How to Make an Impact in a Wicked World - Part 2"

Introduction:

1. We have learned from God's Word that there is a satanic world system established on this earth right now. The Bible refers to it as "the world." Satan is the god of this world. This world system is decidedly anti-God, anti-Bible, rebellious, lawless, immoral, etc.
 - **Romans 1:29-32** gives you a little snapshot of Satan's world system. These are the things the world values, promotes, and revels in.
2. The spirit of the world once worked in all of us (**Ephesians 2:2**). But the day we trusted Christ as our Savior, we received another Spirit, the Spirit of Jesus Christ. **1 Corinthians 2:12**
3. At the moment of salvation a complete identity change occurred in you. You are now no longer part of this world system (Satan's kingdom). You have been translated out of the kingdom of darkness and into the kingdom of Jesus Christ. **Colossians 1:13; Galatians 1:4**
 - You are a member of Christ's heavenly kingdom, but here's the kicker - you are living on the earth in the midst of Satan's kingdom - an anti-Christ mindset.
4. You no longer are part of this world system, yet you must function and live in it every day. Why would God place you in such a precarious situation? It's very simple - you were left in this world system so that you could impact other people for Jesus Christ.
5. There is a battle going on right now for the souls of people (**Ephesians 6:12**). You are a threat to Satan's purposes and all that he wants to accomplish through his world system.
 - Make no mistake about it, he desires to neutralize you and make you a non-factor in this world.
6. On the other hand, God wants to use you as His ambassador on the enemy's turf. God has graciously made you a new creature, given you a new identity (**2 Corinthians 5:17**), equipped you with a life-changing gospel, and given you a ministry (**2 Corinthians 5:18-20**).
7. God wants to use you to be a radical agent of change and transformation (of people's lives) in this wicked world system in which we live. God hasn't called you to **reform** this world system, but lives can be **transformed** within this world system. How can you fulfill that calling?

By zealously proclaiming the gospel (review)

By renewing your mind through God's Word (review)

By separating from this world system

1. There is a philosophy that will absolutely devastate the effectiveness of the church. Here it is: the church needs to become more like the world in order to win the world.
 - If we can just show the world that we are a lot like them, they will want to come to church, and hear about Jesus and the gospel.

- Churches, pastors, and believers are buying into this philosophy by the truckloads.
2. Yet, God's call is so clear. God's Word tells you that this world system is racing towards judgment and condemnation, and God's call is to "**come out.**"
2 Corinthians 6:14-18
 3. God's call to separate is two-fold. Separate **from** the filth and contamination of this world system, and separate **unto** God our Father and the renewed mind He gives.
2 Corinthians 7:1
 - We are not to seek the applause, approval, or commendation of this world.
Galatians 1:10
 - We are not to seek the sinful pleasures and passions of this world.
1 John 2:15-16
 4. The way we make a difference in this world is by the world seeing a **clear difference** in us. **Ephesians 5:10-11**
 - Our love for the Father should be so strong that we not only separate from the works of darkness, we reprove them.
 5. If I were to ask you - "Why did Christ give His life for you?" - what would be your response? I have a verse that tells you why - **Titus 2:14.**
 - The word "peculiar" doesn't mean weird or strange. It means "to belong especially to someone."
 - **Illustration:** This wedding ring is peculiarly mine. It is mine in a special way that is not true of anyone else. It may even seem strange to others. Why? It isn't their wedding ring.
 6. We are peculiarly God's. What is the result of this? It should be that we are zealous of good works. God bestowed His grace upon you so that His grace can now live through you, by you reproving the evil works of this world system and being zealous of **good** works.
 - God's desire is for you to come out and live a separated life from Satan's world system, and approve things that are excellent. **Philippians 1:10**
 - Satan's goal is to indoctrinate you and integrate you so much into his world system that you are a non-factor. There may be a Christian gloss, but you are walking lockstep in line with this world.
 7. There is a movement among Christians today that is frightening. It is the philosophy, "Let's get as close to the world as we possibly can, but still say we believe the Bible and love Jesus." Of course this is a recipe for disaster. Remember Lot and his wife?
 8. We excuse our worldliness under many guises: I'm under grace, not law. I have Christian liberty. I'm trying to reach worldly people with the gospel. I'm trying to be relevant to our culture. People use **1 Corinthians 9:19-23** out of context to justify it.
 - The truth is, it is a heart problem. There is a secret love for this world system and the pleasures it offers. There is not a heart like Moses'. **Hebrews 12:25-26**
 - There is a heart like Demas', outwardly a faithful companion of Paul who loved God, but inwardly there was a secret longing and desire for the temporal things of this world.

9. We can look the part, but inwardly there is a love for the depravity, perverseness, blasphemy, lewdness, nudity, and violence of this world's movies, TV shows, books, magazines, video games, Web sites, and music.
 - Inwardly we love the world's clothing and fashion styles (even if they are a bit immodest). We fall at the idol of sports, entertainment, worldly pleasures, and money. Inwardly we are covetous of the world's houses, cars, boats, play toys, and prosperity.
 - We inwardly love these things, and in many cases, are addicted to them, but have convinced ourselves we can love God, too.
10. Pastors are likewise addicted to these same things. This is why they don't cry out against worldliness and they are willing to allow the world's way of thinking into the church. They love the world, too.
11. Every once in a while, some kooky preacher will come along hollering about "*Love not the world, neither the things...*" He will warn about God's call to come out of the world and not be conformed to it, but they say, "He just isn't culturally relevant and he doesn't understand the new methods God is using today."
 - Okay, **Romans 14:10, 12** says "*... for we shall all stand before the judgment...*"
12. As for me, I'm going to stick with what Paul gave me. The way to impact this wicked world is to separate, come out, and be distinctly different. At the same time, with love and grace, preach and teach the gospel of Jesus Christ. Teach it clearly, teach it with boldness, and preach it with passion in the power of the Holy Spirit.
13. As believers do this, lives will be genuinely transformed as they view your godly life, coupled with the message of the gospel.